

loured figures in the book before us prove that reduced representations when carefully done and *coloured* (as these figures are) are more useful to the scientific man than large folio volumes, however gorgeous and magnificent.

In Germany, his fine work on the *Ramphastidæ* has been copied on a reduced scale; it is a pity that so spirited and talented a man should not have all the results of the profit of such books.—A. W.

Arran and Excursions to Arran, with reference to the Natural History of the Island. By the Rev. DAVID LANDSBOROUGH. 1847. Johnstone.

This excellent work should have been printed without its prefatory matter, and it would have been noticed by us earlier, but for the difficulty we felt about referring to a poem in a scientific Journal. The poem of Arran however only occupies 80 pages of a book of 367 pages, so that the gifted and amiable author of it should have published the poem separate, and the excursions separate, or at least given the prominence and *preface* to the larger and (to us) more valuable portion of his book. In a future number we intend to give some extracts from these very interesting excursions, which will show such as are not acquainted with them, that they have another "Journal of a Naturalist," and a decidedly originally-treated natural history of Arran, which would have delighted Gilbert White of Selborne. With the works of the Rev. D. Landsborough and the geological and picturesque descriptions of Professor Ramsay, Arran, the Queen of Scotland's Islands, behind "whose northern battlement of hills" we have witnessed more than one glorious sunset, the visitor will find most excellent guides. We have tested them both; they should be printed in one volume.—A. W.

PROCEEDINGS OF LEARNED SOCIETIES.

BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF EDINBURGH.

Nov. 9, 1848.—The Rev. Dr. Fleming, President, in the Chair.

The President opened the meeting by making a few observations on the flourishing state of the Society. He alluded to the interesting communications which had been read during the past session, many of which had been published in the Society's Transactions; and concluded by expressing a hope that the ensuing session might be equally prosperous.

Numerous donations to the Museum and Library were announced, and thanks ordered to be returned for them.

The following communications were read:—

1. "Algæ Orientales, or Descriptions of new species belonging to the genus *Sargassum*" (part 3), by R. K. Greville, LL.D. (Ann. Nat. Hist. vol. ii. S. 2. p. 431.)
2. "Stirpes Cryptogamæ Sarnienses, or Contributions towards the